



# EQUALITY LOUDOUN

ADVOCACY | COMMUNITY | EDUCATION | DEFENSE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**EQLOCO.com**  
**contact@eqloco.com**

## **EQLOCO Announces Governing Board Transition** *New Era in LGBTQ+ Advocacy in Loudoun County*

**LEESBURG, VA** — After working in Loudoun County for 20 years to further LGBTQ+ equality and advocacy, the Equality Loudoun Board of Directors has achieved the milestone of transitioning to a Governing Board and activating an Operations Team that will enable renewed and expanded efforts. This accomplishment was the culmination of years of work by our outgoing Board of Directors to recruit, engage, and help the community realize the potential of our work and the impact it will have for generations.

The new Governance Board will be helmed by long-time EQLOCO advocates Candice Tuck, President and Samantha (Sam) Clarke, Vice President, who are joined by returning Board Members Sofa Smeigh (Secretary) and Matthew Charlesworth, Member-At-Large. The Executive Team also welcomes EQLOCO newcomer and local business leader Natahsa Magrath as the new Board Treasurer, and four new Members-At-Large: Jamie Bost, Sean Murphy, Vanessa Borg, and Esmeralda Ortiz. These new leaders represent the diversity of thought, background, and spirit that has empowered the organization to expand and accomplish so much in the last five years.

The new Operations Team will be led by Candice Tuck, acting as Executive Director for 2024, and features veteran EQLOCO members Jenny Parsons, Community Director; Leigh Guarinello, Inclusion Director; and Jennifer Boudrye, contracted Training Manager. The Team will also be opening applications in the near future for an Advocacy Director, Communications Director, and Education Director to ensure they will be capable of meeting the mission of Advocacy, Community, Defense, Education, and Inclusion for the LGBTQ+ community in Loudoun County.

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Equality Loudoun (EQLOCO) is Loudoun's largest nonprofit organization fighting to promote, protect, and defend LGBTQ+ equality in Loudoun County.